चलने दीजिए, तब तक मैं सारी स्थिति देख लेता हूं और मैं आपको यह एश्योर करता हूं on behalf of Government कि आप जो मामले उठाएंगे जिस समय उठाएंगे, किस तरह का मामला होगा, सरकार के पक्ष की ओर से कोई न कोई उत्तर देगा। ...(व्यवधान)... अब आप बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)... हर चीज की सीमा होती है। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 221.

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## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Collapse of colliery

*221. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the roof of an abandoned CCL, Colliery near Hazaribag collapsed on 28th/29th September, 2005 leading to the death of a number of persons engaged in illegal mining there;

(b) if so, the number of the persons who lost their lives in the mishap;

(c) whether the matter has been investigated as to the role of unauthorized contractors/officials of the CCL, and others in the illegal mining which led to the mishap; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) and (b) Yes Sir, a portion of mine roof collapsed at Section-I quarry of Rajrappa Project of Central Coalfields Ltd. near Hazaribagh, Jharkhand while illegal mining was being done on 29.9.2005. The Officer Incharge of Rajrappa Police Station in his report dated 29.9.2005 has mentioned that two bodies were recovered from the accident site.

(c) and (d) The police has registered a case *vide* Rajrappa Police outpost (Police Station, Ramgarh), case No. 399/05 dated 29.9.05 under sections 286, 287, 338, 379, 304(A) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 30(ii) of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 and the matter is under enquiry by the police.

SHRI LALIT SURI: Sir, this is not the first case in which workers engaged by contractors in illegal mining have been killed. Obviously, in such activities, contractors and employees of local companies and the local administration are involved and act jointly. My question to the hon. Prime Minister is this. What specific action has been taken against those found to be involved in such activities and what compensation is being given for the people who have been killed?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: This is about accidents in illegal mining. This has nothing to do with the management of the Coal India Ltd. There are mines which have been abandoned and there are mines which have been closed. There, some illegal mining is taking place. We have observed that illegal mining is linked with socio-economic problems, as also the law and order problem. Sir, one can see, and I have also personally witnessed, at these places, hundreds of people carrying gunny bags full of coal on their cycles. No contractor is hired by the company. There are private people involved there. Whatever accidents take place, they do not come on the record of the police. That is how things are happening there. This is absolutely illegal mining and it is not in the hands of the contractors.

SHRI LALIT SURI: Sir, my second supplementary is this. India has one of the largest reserves of coal in the world. The hon. Prime Minister is very keen on this, and there is a Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha for privitisation and for using the most modern techniques to mine the coal. I would like to ask the hon. Prime Minister how he will proceed further to get the Bill through, as soon as possible, so that the coal which is already there can be mined in a scientific manner and the cost of generation of power which is very high can be reduced.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, this does not pertain to the main question. But still, for the convenience of the hon. Member, I would like to reply to it. The hon. Member is aware that the Coalmine (Amendment) Bill, 2000 is pending in this House. There have been a lot of protests from the trade unions and our friends from the Left. Unless there is unanimity on the issue, I don't think the Bill can be passed. That is number one. The second one is with regard to meeting the demand. Sir, it does not mean that we are not in a position to meet the demand. We have increased the production. But, there is also a rapid demand to that extent. Our growth rate, as per the vision of the hon. Prime Miniter, should reach 10 per cent. Looking at the vision of hon. Prime Minister, a rapid increase in production is very much needed. And, to meet the demand, we have allocated nearly

40 captive mining blocks and nearly 89 projects are going to come. Now, there are 24 projects. But, the NDA Government could clear only one project. After the UPA Government came to power, we have cleared 8 projects. I think, within six months we are going to clear the remaining 15 projects so that nearly 190 million tonnes could be produced and, with this production, from the captive mining blocks, the total production comes to 2,000 million tonnes. So, with this, definitely, we are going to meet the surplus demand by 2011. So, Sir, this is our plan and the hon. Prime Minister is very keen on this. We have also constituted a High-Powered Committee to prepare the Coal Document 2025 and with that we are going ahead to meet the coal demand.

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: सभापति महोदय, कोयला खानों के अंदर दुर्घटनाएं काफी समय से होती आ रही हैं। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या इन दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए सरकार की कोई योजना है? यदि ऐसी कोई योजना है, तो इसे कब तक लागू कर दिया जायेगा?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, here, there are two aspects. The first one is accidents in illegal mining and another one is accidents in our mines. The Government is very much concerned about the accidents in illegal mining. And, personally, I would say that the State Governments have to cooperate with us. I met the hon. Chief Ministers of West Bengal and Jharkhand personally and discussed with them the issue and the Chief Minister of Jharkhand was kind enough to constitute a Task Force and the first meeting has also taken place in the last week of last month and the Government of West Bengal has also reacted to my request.

Now, Sir, there are so many rat holes. We are completely closing all those rat holes which they are using to get coal. We are closing them totally. More than 85 per cent to 90 per cent rat holes and other sources were totally closed. We are trying our best that no human loss takes place.

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि: धन्यवाद सभापति महोदय। उड़ीसा में कार्यरत एमसीएल के अन्तर्गत तालचर फील्ड के तालचर टाउन में इस प्रकार की दुर्घटना होने की संभावना है। तालचर टाउन के पास चम्पापसी करके एक अंडरग्राउंड कोल माइन है। क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह पता है कि वहां पर बालू फिलिंग, सैंड फिलिंग प्रोपरली नहीं होती है? मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि यह खान एक प्रकार से समाप्त होने को है। अगर चम्पापसी अंडरग्राउंड कोल माइन में प्रोपरली बालू फिलिंग नहीं होती है, तो इससे तालचर टाउन को भी दिक्कत हो सकती है। क्या मंत्री महोदय इसके बारे में सदन को कुछ बता सकते हैं?

**श्री सभापति:** ऐसा प्रश्न किया करो, जिसका उत्तर भी मिले। पहली बार आपने किया है।

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, this supplementary does not arise out of the main question. If the hon. Member gives me a separate notice, I will give him full details.

**श्री अजय मारू:** धन्यवाद सभापति महोदय। जैसा कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में कहा है कि जो राजरप्पा में अवैध खनन हो रहा था, उसमें दो लोगों की जानें गई हैं। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि वहां उस समय सीसीएल के अधिकारी भी मौजूद थे। उन्होंने देखा था कि ग्रामीण जो अवैध खनन कर रहे थे, 8 शवों को लेकर भाग गये, इसका कहीं भी जिक्र नहीं है। जहां पर यह घटना घटी वहां से 15 फुट की दूरी पर सीसीएल का खनन हो रहा था, सीसीएल की खदानों में ऊपर वैध खनन हो रहा था और उसी के नीचे अवैध खनन हो रहा था। सीसीएल के अधिकारियों की जानकारी में यह पूरा अवैध खनन होता है, लेकिन इसकी रोकथाम के लिए सीसीएल प्रबंधन कुछ नहीं करता है। वहीं पर, राजरप्पा से कुछ दूरी पर ही 15 जून को बांसगड़ा में भी सीसीएल की खान में एक दुर्घटना हुई थी जिसमें 14 श्रमिक मारे गए थे और 10 दिनों तक सीसीएल के पास कोई ऐसे उपाय नहीं थे कि उस खान में से, जिसमें पानी भर गया था, शवों को निकाल सके। सीसीएल और कोल इंडिया इसके लिए क्या कर रही है, यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are two questions from the hon. Member. One is about the Rajrappa accident and another is about the Sonda accident.

Regarding the Rajarappa accident, the hon. Member has said that eight people died. But, Sir, as per the report of the State Government only two bodies were found. And, it is untrue that CCL has not taken any care. Sir, here is a recorded evidence regarding this illegal mining, and the Coal India and the CCL had taken care in this matter. In the month of July they wrote a letter to the Superintendent of Police, and in August they wrote another letter. On 10th September, just before the accident took place, they wrote a letter, but the Government did not take any interest. So, it is not the lapse of the Company, it is the lapse of the law and order, and it is a lapse from the State Government. After this incident, the Chief Minister has taken an initiative and he constituted a task force.

Regarding the Sonda incident, that is a legal accident. It was disastrous, and it has happened because of the negligence of the officials. We suspended those officials and the Court of Inquiry is going on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.